



SRC NewsFlash

A Summary of News, Messages, and
Facts from the Senate Republican Caucus

SRC Calendar:

- Monday, January 30**
- **10 a.m.** Ag Committee, SB 6424 providing tax exemption for land used to grow biodiesel feedstock (Sen. Schoesler) SHR 3
 - **10 a.m.** Gov't Ops Committee, SB 6705 (Sen. Finkbeiner) restricting state employees from doing public service announcements. SHR 2
 - **10 a.m.** Labor/Commerce Committee, SB 6592 requiring minimum sick leave. SHR 4
 - **1:30 p.m.** Ways & Means, SB 6218, extending health benefits to domestic partners.
 - **3:30 p.m.** Health/Long Term Committee, SB 6233 giving insurance commissioner authority to regulate rates for individual plans. SHR 4
- Tuesday, January 31**
- **Noon.** Washington Policy Center's Annual Legislative briefing luncheon. HHR B
 - **3:30 p.m.** Judiciary Committee, SB 6417 (Sen. Roach) prohibiting bestiality. SHR 1
- Wednesday, Feb. 1**
- **8 a.m.** Natural Resources Committee, SB 6364 (Sen. Roach) outlawing "teak surfing." SHR 2
 - **10 a.m.** Senate session and caucus
 - **1:30 p.m.** W & M Committee, SJR 8222 (Sen. Zarelli) mandating a state rainy day fund. SHR 4.
 - **6 p.m.** Labor/Commerce Committee, SB 6608 (Sen. McCaslin) mandating UI payments be denied to incarcerated individuals. SHR 4
- Thursday Feb. 2**
- **8 a.m.** Gov't Ops Committee, SB 5667 (Sen. Roach) making county auditor an elective office in all counties.
 - **10 a.m.** Energy/Water/Enviro Committee, SB 6776 (Sen. Finkbeiner) prohibiting the unauthorized sale of cell phone numbers. SHR 4
 - **1:30 p.m.** Transpo Committee, SB 6674 (Sen. Oke) requiring funds collected from construction of the Tacoma Narrows bridge be placed in the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge account. SHR 1
 - **3:30 p.m.** K-12 Committee, SB 6489 (Sen. Stevens) requiring public schools to provide post-secondary remedial education or pay for it. SHR1
- Friday, Feb. 3**
- 10 a.m.** Senate session and caucus.
Committee cut off date.

Republican 'Commitment to Washington'

Sen. Joe Zarelli has proposed a constitutional amendment mandating that one percent of all general revenues be put into a "rainy day" fund. The Senate Ways and Means Committee will hear the bill on Wednesday. If the state had such a fund today, we would be required to set aside about \$102 million this year.

Zarelli's rainy day account could only be tapped by a three-fifths vote of the Legislature during good economic times. During downturns in the economy when employment growth is less than 1 percent, such as the 1981-83 recession when the Legislature placed a sales tax on food and the post-9/11 recession, the fund can be tapped with a simple majority of each legislative chamber.

This is one more way Republicans are moving forward with their "**Commitment to Washington.**"

In the News

From the Tri-Cities Herald on Sen. Diane Fairley's characterization of Eastern Washington: "A state senator from the Puget Sound region recently described Eastern Washington as a place that has "very good roads going nowhere. They've got extremely good roads over there going to places that are all boarded up and are small and it's sad." Is that how you think of Eastern Washington?"

On the Republican promise to eliminate the \$5 fee at state parks: "He said that one of the commitments Republicans have made, echoed by their standard bearer, former gubernatorial candidate Dino Rossi, it to reverse the parks fee. 'We think it will happen this year' **Sen. Mike Hewitt** said." (*Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader*, 1-25-06)

Senate Republican Caucus Communications

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